

Monthly Report Template for COMPETE Grantees

Grantee: One Acre Fund

Report for the month of: August 2011

Based on your grant agreement implementation timeline, please highlight the activities you have accomplished over the past month.

Activity <i>Activities should be directly in-line with your grant agreement</i>	Activity Status <i>If the activity has been accomplished, please give results. If the activity has not been accomplished, please provide an explanation.</i>
<p>Field officers trained smallholder farmers in groups of 40-50 farmers, in the fields where they live and work.</p>	<p>1AF field officers trained farmers on the importance and method of storing maize correctly using storage bags and actellic dust. Trainings were delivered to 28,075 farmers (65% women) in Kakamega, Webuye, Chwele, Bungoma, Butere, Rachuonyo, and Teso.</p> <p>Farmers have commented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'I expect maize prices to rise as high as KShs 4,000 per bag next year, so I will wait until then to sell what I have. That money will be important for my children's school fees' - 'Learning how to correctly store maize has been a valuable experience for me and my family' - 'Farmers are less vulnerable to high prices when they have the opportunity to store their maize for long periods' <p>Protecting maize against loss and enabling farmers to sell later in the year is a vital way of increasing incomes. Based on our trials last year, have seen our farmers store up to 10 bags of maize between Nov 10 and Feb 11, sell at a higher price when the market is less saturated, and use the additional income to pay school fees, buy farm animals, and buy food for the home. We expect to see the same this year.</p>

<p>Field officers visited individual farmers at their homes to check whether their maize was ready to be harvested. For farmers who were ready to harvest, field officers visited to check the quality of their harvest practices</p>	<p>Harvest time began from 1 August, however due to the later than expect rains in most parts of western Kenya, many farmers planted later than usual, thereby delaying their harvests. On the whole crop yields were consistent with expectations. In the event of crop failure, 1AF farmers are insured through the Kilimo Salama micro-insurance program for smallholder farmers.</p> <p>On average, we triple a farmer's harvest from ½ ton per acre to 1½ tons per acre. They typically repay us about ½ ton for our services, leaving their net profit at 1 ton per acre (double their original profit).</p> <p>1AF is currently rolling out its M&E maize survey for this harvest season. This will be based on a randomized survey of 1000 farmers who used our maize storage methods, as compared to 300 farmers who did not. It will look at differences in income between the two groups, as well as success in correctly implanting the maize storage training amongst the test group.</p> <p>In recent years farmers have asked 1AF for products that can help them store their maize and prevent damage by grain borers and weevils. 1AF responded by offering actellic dust and storage bags to our members, along with training on how to use them. If used correctly, the maize should be free of grain borers and weevils for 6 months.</p>
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We are particularly interested in highlights that include:

- The formation of partnerships
- The implementation of new technologies or management practices
- The training of individuals or groups (please give a number and gender breakdown)
- The use of Market Information Systems (MIS)
- The establishment of new access to markets

Additional comments or results: